

X T PRENTIS

MR. PRESIDENT: Your committee, appointed to prepare a suitable resolution commemorating the life, character and public service of the late Honorable X T Prentis, begs leave to submit the following memorial:

X T Prentis was born September 2, 1896, in Benton, Ringgold County, Iowa, the son of Glazier and Louisa Sams Prentis. He attended public schools in Ringgold County and the University of Iowa in Iowa City. He served in the United States Army and was employed by the United States Department of Labor for two years during World War I. In 1919, he was married to Gladys Tennant; they had two sons and two daughters.

Mr. Prentis' given name was X T. The X and T were his grandfather's initials and were passed on to him as his full name, a situation which caused him some problems, particularly when he was in the Army.

Mr. Prentis was reared on a farm and was interested in livestock and poultry production. He owned and operated the Prentis baby chick hatcheries and feed business in Mount Ayr for 40 years. He also represented the Buckeye Incubator Company in Iowa and Missouri and was district sales manager for 17 years. He served as president of the Iowa Poultry Improvement Association, and was a member of the Farm Bureau, the American Legion, the Mount Ayr Library Board, the Masonic Lodge and the Baptist Church.

In 1938, he was elected to represent Ringgold, Decatur and Union Counties in the Iowa House of Representatives and served there during the Forty-eighth through the Fifty-first General Assemblies. He was the Republican floor leader during the Fifty-first General Assembly. In 1948, he was elected to the Iowa Senate and served that body during the Fifty-third through the Fifty-ninth General Assemblies. In 1961, he was appointed to the Iowa State Tax Commission for a six-year term, and served as its chairman for two years.

During his tenure in the Senate, Mr. Prentis was a member of practically every standing committee, and was chairman of the very important committees on Governmental Affairs, Ways and Means, Appropriations and Tax Revision. He was a member of the powerful Budget and Financial Control Committee, the Legislative Research Committee, and chairman of the interim Iowa Tax Study Committee and the Government Reorganization Committee (nicknamed the Little Hoover Commission).

X T Prentis died at a Mount Ayr hospital on October 9, 1978, at the age of 82. He is survived by his widow, Gladys; two sons, Richard T. of Mount Ayr and Raymond E. of Ottumwa; two daughters, Anne Prentis Wittmann of Stamford, Connecticut, and Jean Prentis Reger of Horseheads, New York; eleven grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Sixty-eighth General Assembly of Iowa: That in the passing of the Honorable X T Prentis, the State has lost an honored citizen and a faithful and useful public servant, and the Senate by this resolution would express its appreciation of his services to his community, state and nation and tender its sympathy to the members of his family.

Be It Further Resolved: That a copy of this resolution be spread upon the Journal of the Senate and that the Secretary of the Senate be instructed to forward an enrolled copy to each member of his family.

DICK R. RAMSEY, Chairperson
JAMES E. BRILES
BASS VAN GILST

Committee

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

ROBERT A. ROCKHILL

MR. PRESIDENT: Your committee, appointed to prepare a suitable resolution commemorating the life, character and public service of the late Honorable Robert A. Rockhill, begs leave to submit the following memorial:

Robert A. Rockhill was born at Larchwood, Iowa, November 24, 1894, the son of Oscar and Hulda Bohnsen Rockhill. He was married to Velda Mae Fox in Cedar Rapids, July 18, 1928, and she survives.

Mr. Rockhill was reared and educated in Larchwood; he later attended Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Indiana, and eventually transferred to State University of Iowa where he obtained a B.A. in 1920 and an LLB, in 1923.

He then came to Marshalltown to establish a law practice. He was first named City Solicitor in 1927, serving until 1933; in 1952 he again became City Attorney, and served until his retirement in 1974. He had the distinction of serving as Marshalltown's city attorney longer than any other man in history.

He was a member of the Marshall County Bar Association, serving as president in 1939; he was also a 50-year member of the Iowa Bar Association (being recognized for that distinction in April, 1973) and a member of the National Bar Association.

He served in both World War I and World War II, first as a lieutenant in the infantry as a machine gun officer overseas in 1918, and later, from 1942-44, as staff officer and commanding officer at Ft. Snelling, Minn., a task for which he volunteered. A member of the Army Reserve since 1927, he retired as a major and was cited by the Reserve Officers Association for his 35 years of service.

After leaving the military in 1944, he returned to Marshalltown and was elected to the Iowa Senate to fill the unexpired term of the late B. C. Whitehill. He was a ranking member of the military affairs committee, and served on committees on tax